



BRAZOS COUNTY OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF CHRISTOPHER C. KIRK

W. JAMES STEWART, CHIEF DEPUTY
WAYNE DICKY, JAIL ADMINISTRATOR

1700 WEST STATE HIGHWAY 21
BRYAN, TEXAS 77803-1300

April 8, 2015

EX PARTE OR LATE FILER

Received & Inspected

APR 14 2015

FCC Mail Room

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: **Ex Parte Communication**
WC Docket No. 12-375; Inmate Calling Services

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Brazos County Office of the Sheriff hereby files an *ex parte* communication in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. The Brazos County Office of the Sheriff supports the comments and reply comments filed by the National Sheriffs' Association in this proceeding. The purpose of this filing is to submit additional information specific to this office in support of NSA's position that Sheriffs must be allowed to recover their costs if ICS services are to continue to be widely available in jails.

Inmate calling is a discretionary service in our jail(s) and it is allowed for the benefit of inmates and their families. If we are not permitted to recover the costs associated with the provision of ICS service, then we can and we may be forced to significantly limit or eliminate altogether access to inmate phones in our jail(s). Currently, we have the incentive to allow significant access to ICS service and inmates are able to make calls 14 hours per day. Denying payments to jails or restricting such payments to levels that do not at least cover our costs, will have the effect of reducing the incentive and ability to continue to allow ICS in this manner.

Revenue from ICS supports security and administrative functions. Revenue from collect calls are deposited in our County General Fund and help offset the personnel cost of monitoring calls for threats to the facility and other criminal activity. Furthermore, revenue from the sale of pre-paid calling through the Sheriff's Commissary Operation helps to provide critical programs such as Adult Education, Faith Based Initiatives and Life Skills Programs. These programs are

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discretionary. If ICS revenue is lost, security will be compromised and programs will be reduced.

Accordingly, Sheriffs incur significant costs in allowing ICS in jails and Sheriffs must be allowed to recover their costs to be able to continue to allow ICS and to encourage the deployment of ICS in jails.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Kirk", written in a cursive style.

Sheriff Christopher C. Kirk
Brazos County Office of Sheriff